SONY

VAIO Digital Studio™ Computer User Guide

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Welcome

Thank you for purchasing your Sony VAIO® computer! Your new computer is a superb blend of high technology and easy-to-use functionality. The information provided here is designed to help you to become familiar with the hardware and software applications included with your system.

Locating Controls And Connectors

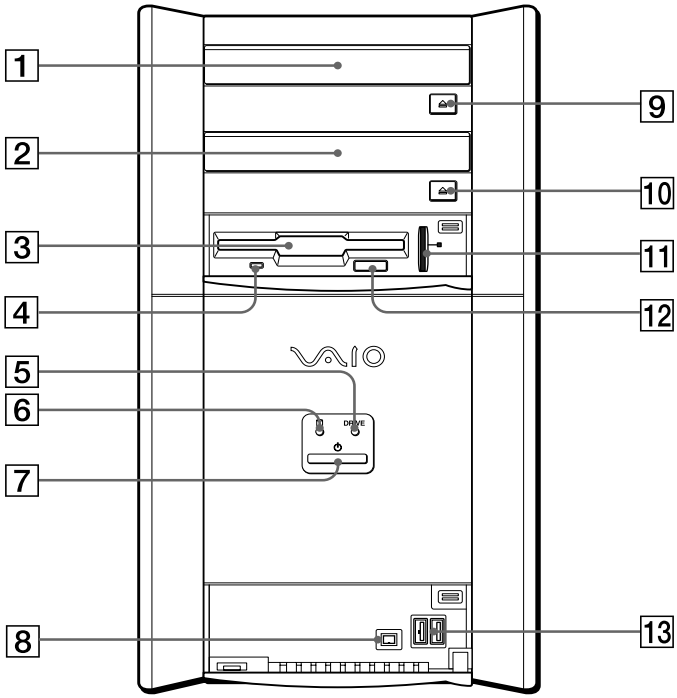
Front Panel Overview

The front panel of your VAIO Computer allows access to the optical and floppy disk drives. It also includes Universal Serial Bus (USB) and i.LINK® ports to connect compatible peripheral devices.

i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE1394 connection. The i.LINK connection may vary, depending on the software applications, operating system, and compatible i.LINK devices. All products with an i.LINK connection may not communicate with each other.

Please refer to the documentation that came with your compatible i.LINK device for information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK PC peripherals to your system, such as an optical or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

Front panel



Your computer may not be supplied with all of the features listed, depending on the system configuration you purchased.

1 **Optical drive 1**
See Specifications sheet for optical drive information.

2 **Optical drive 2**
See Specifications sheet for optical drive information.

3 **Floppy disk drive**
Reads and writes data from and to a 3.5-inch floppy disk.

4	**Floppy disk drive access indicator light** Lights in green while reading and writing data from and to a floppy disk.
5	**Optical drive access indicator light** Lights in amber while reading and writing data from and to the optical drives.
6	**Hard disk drive access indicator light** Lights in amber while reading and writing data from and to the hard disk.
7	**Power switch and indicator light** Turns the computer on/off. The indicator light is blue while the power is on and amber when the computer is in Stand by mode.
8	**i.LINK 4-pin port (IEEE1394)** Connection for a compatible digital device.
9	**Optical drive 1 eject button** Ejects a disc from Optical drive 1.
10	**Optical drive 2 eject button** Ejects a disc from Optical drive 2.
11	**Memory Stick® slot (Not available on all models)** Reads and writes data from and to a Memory Stick media.
12	**Floppy disk eject button** Ejects a floppy disk.
13	**Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports (2)** Connections for compatible USB devices.

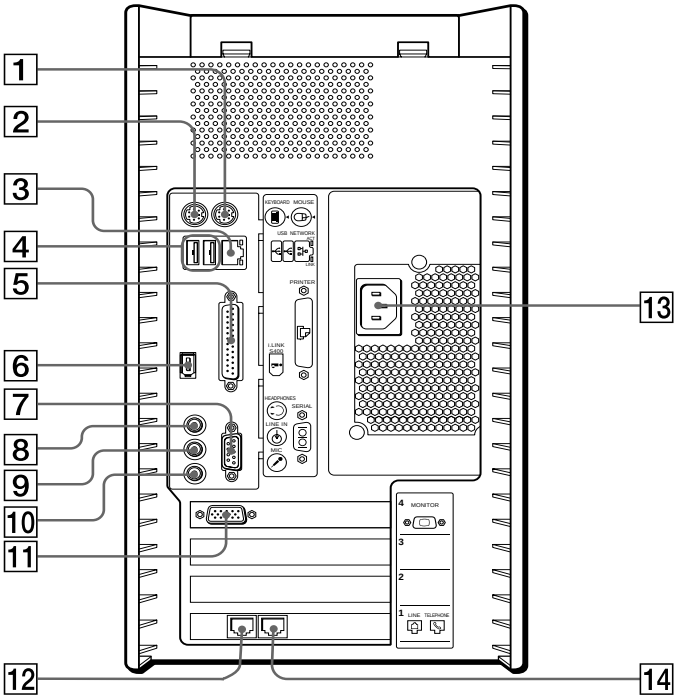
For your convenience, your computer includes USB and i.LINK ports on both the front and back panels. The 4-pin i.LINK port is located on the front panel and the 6-pin i.LINK port is located on the back.

Back Panel Overview

The back panel of your computer contains the ports for supplied and optional accessories. The icons on the back panel locate and identify the ports and jacks on your computer.

Your computer may not be supplied with all of the features listed, depending on the system configuration you purchased.

Back panel



1	**Mouse port** Connection for a PS/2® mouse.
2	**Keyboard port** Connection for a PS/2 Keyboard.

3	**Ethernet port** 10BASE-T/100BASE-TX Fast Ethernet interface. (The port marked with 品 (Network) is for LAN connections only.)
4	**Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports (2)** Connection for compatible USB devices.
5	**Printer port** Connection for a parallel device, such as a printer or scanner.
6	**i.LINK 6-pin port (IEEE1394)** Connection for a compatible digital device.
7	**Serial port** Connection for a compatible serial device.
8	**Headphones jack** Connection for the supplied speakers or optional headphones.
9	**Line In jack** Connection for an audio device.
10	**Microphone jack** Connection for a microphone (optional).
11	**Monitor port** Connection for a standard display.
12	**Modem line jack** Connection for the supplied modem cable to the wall jack.
13	**AC Input port** Connection for the supplied power cord.
14	**Telephone jack** Connection for a phone cable (optional) to the computer.

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Please refer to the documentation that came with your compatible i.LINK device for information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK PC peripherals to your system, such as an optical or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

VAIO Action Setup

VAIO Action Setup manages the settings for your computer's Shortcut keys (S Keys).

Shortcut Keys

The programmable S Keys are linked with the following applications as their default settings:

- **S1 —** Outlook® Express
- **S2 —** Internet Explorer
- **S3 —** SonicStage
- **S4 —** PictureGear™
- **S5 —** MovieShaker™
- **S6 —** Help/Demo

You can reprogram the S keys to launch other applications.

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Please refer to the documentation that came with your compatible i.LINK device for information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK PC peripherals to your system, such as an optical or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

Changing the settings of the S keys

1. Click Start in the Windows taskbar and select All Programs.
2. Select VAIO Action Setup, then click VAIO Action Setup.

You can also double-click the VAIO Action Setup icon, located in the Windows taskbar, to launch VAIO Action Setup.

3 Click the **S** Key you want to change.

4 From the Select Application dialog box, click the option for the desired type of function. The corresponding applications appear in the list box on the right.

You can drag an application to place it into the list box.

5 The Confirmation Application Name window appears. Click Next.

6 You can type a new name and description, if desired. Click Finish.

To Change the Sony Software Window Design

You can select from different window designs for your Sony software and create your own personal computing environment.

Changing the window design

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar and select the Control Panel.

2 Click Other Control Panel Options.

3 Click UI Design Selector.

4 Click << or >> and select the desired design.

5 Click Apply.

6 The “UI Design Selector” window design changes. The window design for your Sony software matches the “UI Design Selector” window.

7 To try another selection, click << or >>, then click Apply.

8 When you have made your selection, click OK. The UI Design Selector closes and the Sony software window design displays.

You may only use this feature with compatible UI Design Selector software.

VAIO AV Applications

Your VAIO® computer has a preinstalled collection of audio and video (AV) applications that make it easy to use advanced multimedia technology. This section describes the VAIO AV applications.

Your computer may not be supplied with all of the software applications listed, depending on the system configuration you purchased.

Your computer's visual presentation of the VAIO AV applications may not appear exactly as shown in this section, depending on the specific computer model you purchased.

Overview of Preinstalled Software

DigitalPrint
Sony Electronics Inc.
This image management software makes it fun and easy to edit, import, and organize your digital pictures in a photo album for rich digital printing to any standard color laser or inkjet printer. DigitalPrint can also be used to make custom CD labels for your audio CDs.

DVgate™
Sony Electronics Inc.
Connect a digital video camera recorder to the i.LINK® port and capture your own video clips and still images. You can edit clips from your video, add new clips, and combine clips into new movie segments. You can also save your images in a variety of popular file formats.

Media Bar® DVD Player
Sony Electronics Inc.
Media Bar DVD Player is created especially for high-quality DVD playback. You can enjoy the superior digital video quality and the effects features. You can rewind or fast-forward scenes from the DVD Player monitor as you would with any ordinary DVD player, to easily find the scene you want to view. Typical DVD playback features are available, such as multiple angles, audio language tracks, and subtitles. Media Bar DVD Player seamlessly integrates a premium audio/visual experience with an easy-to-use software interface.

MovieShaker™
Sony Electronics Inc.
Sony's original MovieShaker software creates personal movies that have transitions, background music, and text. Just import your video clips and "shake" with a click of the mouse. Your personal movies are easy to create and fun to share with family and friends.

PictureGear™
Sony Electronics Inc.
This image management software displays images from your hard drive, a Sony digital still camera, or a Sony Mavica® camera. The images appear in a convenient light-table format, so that you can easily view the contents of an entire folder.

Smart Capture

Sony Electronics Inc.

Smart Capture is a fun new way to send multimedia messages via e-mail. Smart Capture manages the i.LINK® connection between your notebook and a Sony Digital Handycam® Camcorder that supports the i.LINK interface. It allows you to capture compressed video or still images and save them to your hard disk drive or share via e-mail. A smart solution for computer, digital audio/video and network convergence.

SonicStage™ (On selected models)

Sony Electronics Inc.

This new jukebox application adds a host of new features to its predecessor, OpenMG™ Jukebox. Continuing to take advantage of Sony's copyright-protected ATRAC3™ format for high-quality digital audio storage, SonicStage sports a new music visualizer, a sleek new player skin design, audio CD burning capability, and a parametric equalizer for fine-tuning audio playback.

SonicStage™ Premium (On selected models)

Sony Electronics Inc.

SonicStage Premium is a special jukebox application that supports high quality digital audio playback and recording from the NetMD, FM Tuner, and DVD-RW devices in your VAIO MX Desktop PC. Recording from external analog and digital audio devices, such as CD players and MiniDisc players, is also supported. SonicStage Premium includes several standard jukebox features, including a music visualizer, audio CD burning capability, and a parametric equalizer for fine-tuning audio playback.

VisualFlow™

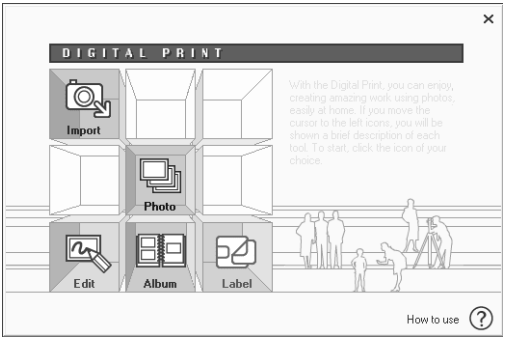
Sony Electronics Inc.

VisualFlow software is a state-of-the-art Sony multimedia browser designed specifically for Memory Stick® media. It displays any still picture, movie or sound file stored in a Memory Stick media in a visually pleasing, artistic manner. VisualFlow software not only plays a selected movie or sound file, but also enables playback of files by other applications like PictureGear™ software or Memory Stick Slideshow.

DigitalPrint Software

DigitalPrint is designed to creatively manage your digital pictures. With its easy-to-use features, you can quickly load images from your digital camera or camcorder, print high-quality photos, and make personalized photo albums and labels to share with friends and family.

DigitalPrint main window



Using PhotoCapture

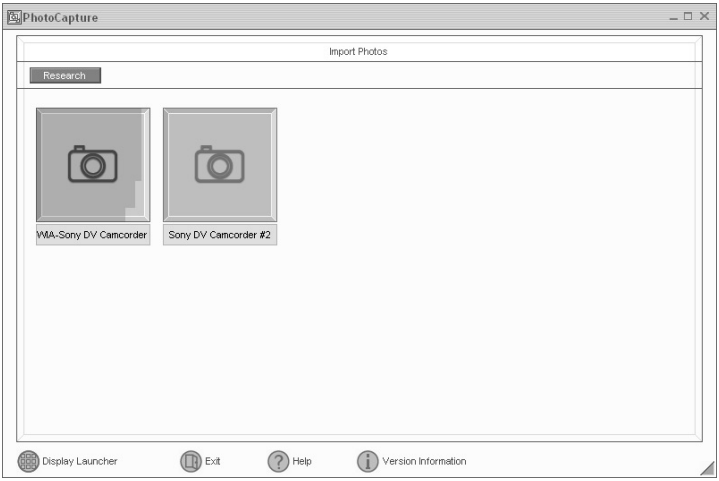
Capture and import your digital pictures from your digital camera or camcorder into your computer. You can select your favorite pictures and place them in handy folders for future use.

1 Click

(Import) to open the PhotoCapture window. Your connected digital camera, camcorder, or Memory Stick® media is indicated in the window.

Properly connect your digital camera, camcorder, or insert your Memory Stick media in your computer.

PhotoCapture window



2 Click the camera icon to open the Enter Photo Folder Name dialog box. You can enter a name for a new folder or click Select Photo Folder to import your pictures to an existing folder. Click OK.

Enter Photo Folder Name dialog box

Enter Photo Folder Name
Enter the folder name which imported photos.
Folder Name
If you want to add photos to exist folders, select photo folders.
Select Photo Folder
OK
Cancel

3 Click Capture to capture still images. You can preview a thumbnail version of your pictures in the selection view window.

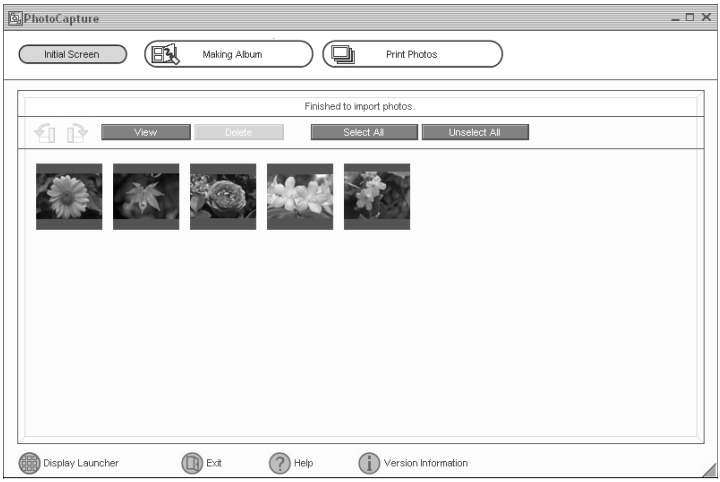
Capture Pictures from Video window

Capture Pictures from Video
Which pictures do you want to capture?
Click the Capture button to create a picture from the video. Then select one or more thumbnails and click Get Pictures to bring them into your application.
Capture
Select All
Get Pictures
Cancel

4 Select the desired pictures, and click Get Pictures. The PhotoCapture picture editor window appears.

5 Click View to see an enlarged version of a selected picture. You can use (Rotate) to change the position of a selected picture. Click Delete to eliminate any unwanted pictures.

PhotoCapture editing window

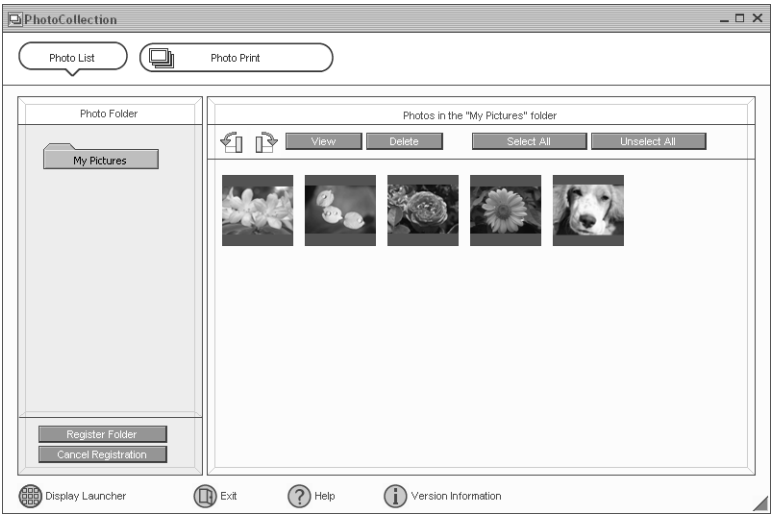


Using PhotoCollection

You can select and print your favorite digital pictures, using your computer and home printer.

1 Click (Photo) to open the PhotoCollection window. A list of folders is displayed on the left side of the window, with the folder contents displayed as thumbnail pictures on the right.

PhotoCollection window



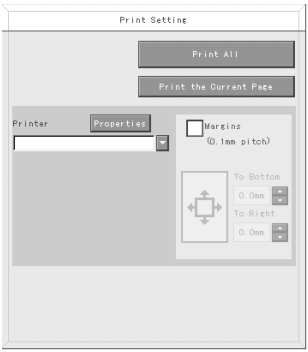
2 Select the desired folder. From the thumbnail view, click to select the pictures you want to print.

3 Click Photo Print at the top of the window. Select the number of prints you want to make, using the scroll arrows. Click OK.

4 Select the paper, based on the picture positioning desired. A layout preview is displayed on the left side of the window.

5 Use the configuration buttons and drop-down lists to select the printer and to set margins.

Printer and Paper selection window



6 Click Print All to print all pages, or click “Print the selected page only” to print a specific page of photos.

Using PhotoDecor

You can decorate your favorite photos with clip art, stamps, or your own drawing talent. Add, remove, and change your designs to create your own unique photo art.

1 Click

(Edit) to open the PhotoDecor - New PhotoDecor window. A list of folders is displayed on the left side of the window, with the folder contents displayed as thumbnail pictures on the right.

PhotoDecor-New PhotoDecor window

2 Select the desired folder. From the thumbnail view, click to select the pictures you want to decorate. The PhotoDecor editing window appears.

3 Use the decoration features on the right side of the window by clicking on the desired decoration icon, and then dragging the decoration onto your photo.

4 Click Print when your photo is ready to be printed. You can save your decorated pictures before printing. Name the new picture, and click Save.

The default location for your saved decorated pictures is in the Decorated Photos folder, which can be viewed from the PhotoDecor - New PhotoDecor window.

Using PhotoAlbum

Capture your special photos in an organized photo album. You can share your custom-made photo albums with friends and family.

1 Click

(Album) to open the PhotoAlbum - New Album window.

PhotoAlbum - New Album window

If you wish to work on a previously created album, do not click Create New Album. Instead, select the desired album from the Album Collection view on the right side of the window.

2 Click Create New Album. The Select Photo window appears.

3 Select the photos you want to include in your album from the available folders displayed. Click List to select individual pictures from each folder. The Select Design window appears.

4 Select a design template for your album. Use the scroll bar to see all available designs. When you have selected the design, the Select Layout window appears.

5 Select a page layout for your album. A preview of your selected design and page layout is displayed. Scroll through the album using the book icons at the bottom of the window.

6 Click Page List to edit your album. Customize your album by adding more pictures, decorations, comments, or deleting pages.

7 You can save your album before printing by clicking Save.

8 Click Print. Select an album type, and click Print again.

For information on stitching your album, click Stitch Album. See the online Help file for more details.

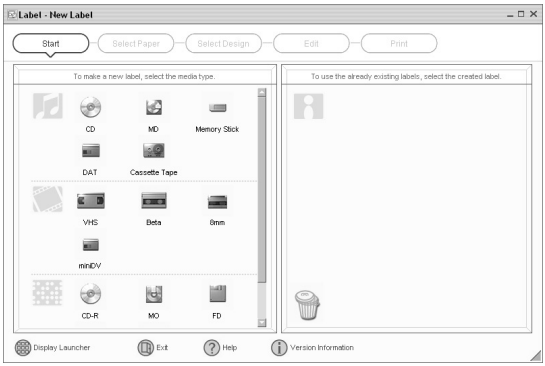
Using LabelMaker

Use LabelMaker to design original labels to personalize your media, such as Memory Stick® media, CDs, or video cassettes.

1 Click

(Label) to open the Label - New Label window.

Label - New Label window



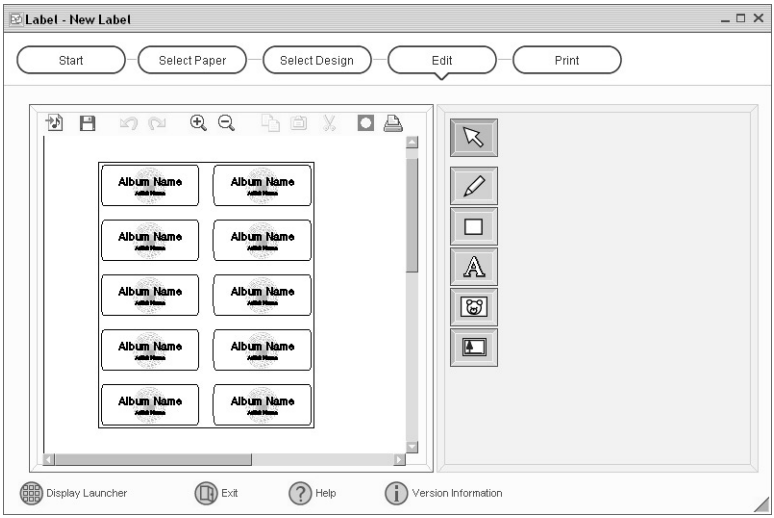
2 Click an icon to select a media type. A new window opens.

3 Click the paper layout icon. The Select Design window appears.

4 Select a design template. Use the decoration and customization features on the right by clicking an icon and dragging it onto your template.

A new window appears, enabling you to list the contents of your audio or video media. You can create a song or video list, depending on the type of media label being created.

Design Edit window



5 Click Print to complete the label making process. Use the configuration buttons and drop-down lists to select the printer and to set margins.

See the online Help for detailed information on using DigitalPrint software.

DVgate Software

Connecting a digital video camcorder

Turn off the power to your digital video camcorder before connecting it to your computer. After connecting the device, turn its power back on. You do not need to turn off the computer when connecting the camcorder.

To use DVgate™ software with a digital video camcorder

- Do not use DVgate™ software when the connected digital video device is in Timer Recording mode, as this may produce a malfunction in the device.
- Video captures larger than 2 GB (9 minutes and 30 seconds) are automatically continued in a second file.
- You can record stereo audio (stereo 1) while capturing video, or you can add audio on the stereo 2 track after capturing the video data.
- You cannot use different audio modes on the same tape. Perform a separate capture for each audio mode you wish to use.
- DVgate software does not support hard disk compression. Do not use disk compression if you are planning to work with DVgate software.
- Title data is saved in the flash memory of a digital video camera and is not transferred to tape by DVgate software.
- Disable your screen saver program to avoid interruption during your capture sessions.
- The drop frame compensation feature does not provide accurate compensation adjustments for tapes recorded in LP mode.
- The information displayed by the capture progress indicator may not be accurate for tapes that are recorded using a mixture of both SP and LP modes.
- Keep the video head of your digital video device properly cleaned. Anomalies that you see in captured data may be due to dust or other particles on the video head.
- The last frame captured is one frame before your selected [OUT] point. The frame you see immediately after clicking the [OUT] button is not captured.

To use DVgate software to record AVI files to tape

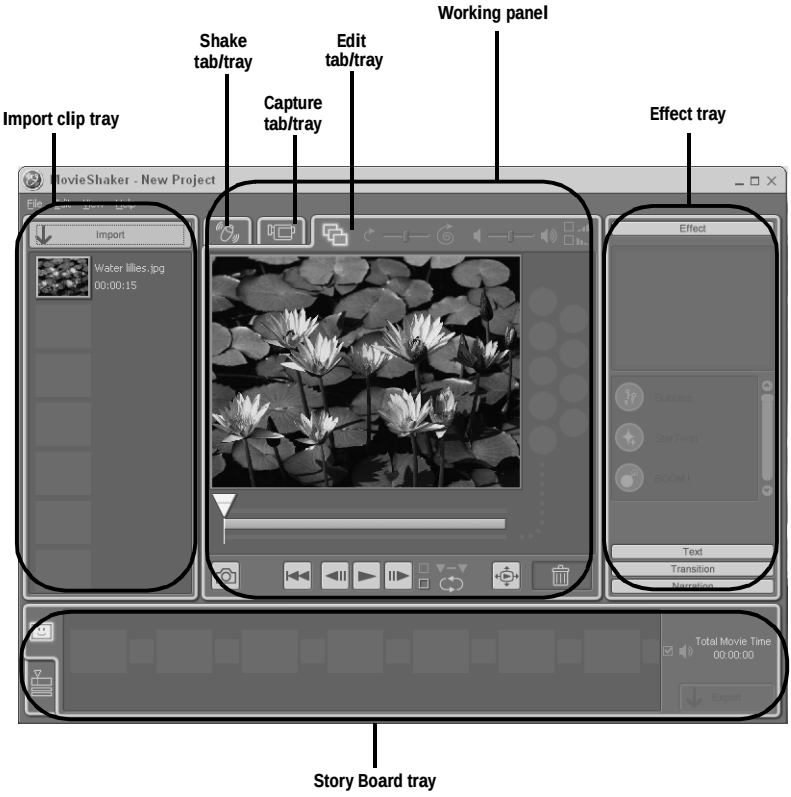
You can record only AVI files. MPEG files cannot be recorded.

- Do not use DVgate™ software when the connected digital video device is in Timer Recording mode, as this could produce a malfunction in the device.
- Avoid recording problems, such as a single frame appearing in multiple frames, by closing other applications on your system while recording.
- You cannot use multiple audio modes on the same tape. If you have AVI files that use different audio modes, the files cannot be recorded at the same time, but must be recorded separately.
- The DVgate software does not support AVI files that are smaller than 4 MB.
- The DVgate software does not support hard disk compression.
- To maximize recording capabilities, video and audio data are not available while you are recording.
- If the DVgate software indicates that frames are dropped, try closing all open applications or defragmenting your hard drive.

MovieShaker Software

MovieShaker™ software can be used to create fun and innovative movies without any previous knowledge of film editing. In a few simple steps, video files can be made from still images with added special effects and music. You can save your personal video creation in a format that is compatible with most computers.

MovieShaker main window



Creating movies with MovieShaker software

Using your imported clips, you can create a short movie using the Shake feature. The Shake feature selects clips from the Story Board tray, adds effects, and combines them randomly into a 30-second movie. After you "Shake" your video, you can edit it by adding effects and text, by adjusting the color and contrast, and by modifying its length.

Importing images and sound clips

1. Click Import. The Import file browser window appears.
2. Find the clips you want to add.
3. Click the clips. The files are added to the Import clip tray.
4. Repeat this process to gather each of the images and video and sound clips you want to use in your movie.

You can delete a clip from the Import clip tray by dragging the clip's icon to the trash icon located on the Edit tray of the working panel.

Importing image or sound files that are over 30 seconds in length may cause the MovieShaker software to stop responding.

Using the Shake feature

1 Click the Shake tab. The Shake tray appears

2 Select a mood by clicking a face in the Shake pattern tray.

Shake tray

3 Click the Shake! button. A 30-second movie is automatically generated.

4 Optional: Add text to your new movie by clicking on the Input button.

5 To preview, rewind, or fast forward your movie, use the Playback buttons.

Scenes created with the Shake feature begin with a black screen in the Shake tray window. Your scenes appear during movie playback.

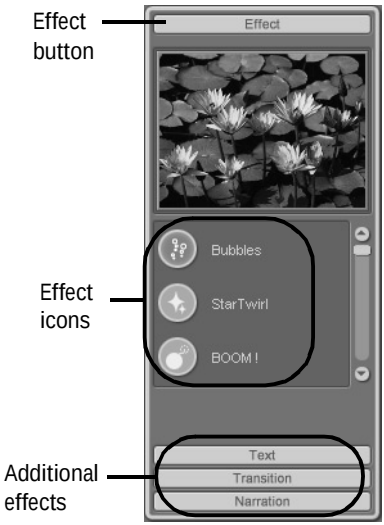
You can improve the image quality produced by the Shake feature (at the cost of longer Shake times) by turning off the “Shorten the Shake time” feature in the General panel of the Setting dialog box. See the “Menu reference” section of the online Help file for details.

Adding effects to a scene or a clip

1 Double-click or drag the desired clip or scene to move it to the Story Board tray.

2 Click the Effect button on the Effect tray.

Effect tray window (Effect button selected)



3 Drag the Effect icon you want to add from the Effect tray to the Effect palette on the Edit tray.

4 Click the Play button on the Edit tray to preview the effect. The added effect previews on the clip displayed in the Effect tray window.

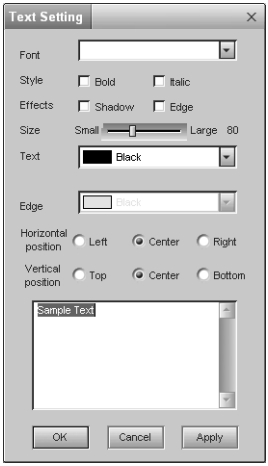
A preview of the added effect is displayed in the Effect tray window. You can eliminate an effect by dragging it from the Effect palette to the trash icon on the Edit tray. See the online Help file for more information on adjusting effect duration and replaying clips and scenes.

Adding text effects to a scene or clip

1 Double-click or drag the clip or scene to move it to the Story Board tray.

2 Click the Text button on the Editing tray.

Effects Tray (Text button selected)



3 Click the Text Setting button to create customized text. The Text Setting dialog box appears. Enter your text, and select the font, size, color, and positioning for your text.

4 Drag the Text effect icon you want to add from the Effect tray to the Effect palette on the Edit tray.

5 Click the Play button on the Edit tray to preview the text effect. The clip displays the text effect in the Effect tray window.

A preview of the added text and text effect is displayed in the Effects tray window. From the Edit tray, you can eliminate a text effect by dragging it from the Effect palette to the trash icon. See the online Help file for more information on adjusting Text effects.

Saving a movie

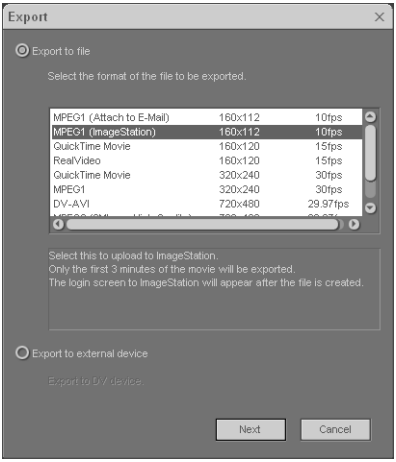
1 Verify that the movie or clips you want to save are located on the Story Board tray.

2 Click the Export button on the Story Board tray.

3 Select the format in which you want the movie to be saved.

You can click on each export format to view its description and use.

Export window


Export
Export to file
Select the format of the file to be exported.
MPEG1 (Attach to E-Mail) 160x112 10fps
MPEG1 (ImageStation) 160x112 10fps
QuickTime Movie 160x120 15fps
RealVideo 160x120 15fps
QuickTime Movie 320x240 30fps
MPEG1 320x240 30fps
DV-AVI 720x480 29.97fps
Select this to upload to ImageStation.
Only the first 3 minutes of the movie will be exported.
The login screen to ImageStation will appear after the file is created.
Export to external device
Export to DV device
Next
Cancel

4 Click Next.

5 Confirm that you want to continue.

6 Locate the folder to which you want to save the file, name your file, and click Save.

The time required to export your movie file may vary, depending on the format selected. See the online Help file for more information on exporting a movie.

Using ImageStation online service with MovieShaker software

ImageStation℠ is an online service that allows you to store your pictures and movies on the Internet to share with family and friends. ImageStation requires an Internet connection and registration for the Web-based service. You must be connected to the Internet before uploading your pictures or movies using MovieShaker and ImageStation applications.

To upload MovieShaker files

1. Locate the clips or video files that you want to upload to the ImageStation service, and import them to the Import Clip tray.
2. Drag the desired clips or video files to the Story Board tray.
3. Click the Export button. The Export window appears.
4. Select "MPEG1 (ImageStation)" and click Next.

The MovieShaker application creates a temporary file to store your images prior to uploading to ImageStation. This file is deleted after the upload process.

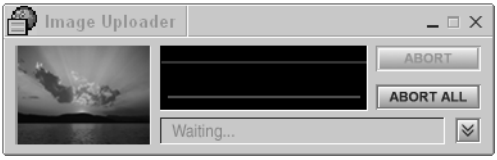
5. If you are a registered member, provide your login name and password.

   For first-time users, click "Register to ImageStation." The ImageStation registration wizard appears and guides you through the initial registration process. Follow the on-screen instructions.

ImageStation Login window

6 When the ImageStation application on your computer connects with ImageStation online, your files are uploaded to the Web site. The Image Uploader window appears and displays the Internet connection and upload status.

Image Uploader window



7 Go to http://www.imagestation.com to view your uploaded pictures or movies. Follow the on-screen instructions to access your ImageStation account.

The ImageStation Web site may ask you to complete a full login again if your current session is not active.

PictureGear Software

PictureGear™ software is a digital image management application that allows you to view all the images stored in any directory on your computer. Thumbnail views provide quick reminders of your pictures. Use PictureGear software to brighten, add contrast, enhance, resize, crop, and color-correct your pictures. Create animations, screen savers, wallpaper, still pictures from MPEG, and HTML photo albums.

PictureGear main window

Managing your pictures

Use the Collection feature to manage your pictures.

1 From the Collection menu, click Create New Collection.

2 Enter a name for your collection, then click OK.

3 Click the Folder tab in the main window, and browse to locate your pictures.

4 Select the pictures you want to include in your collection.

5 From the Collection menu, click Add File to Collection.

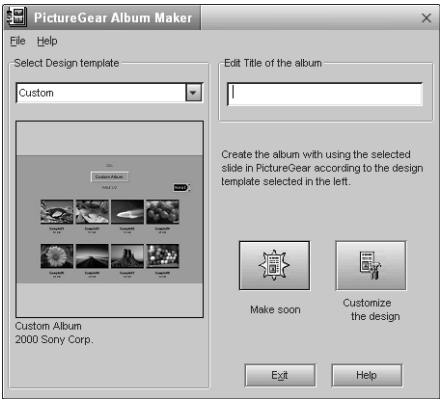
6 In the Add File to My Collection message box, select the name of your collection, and click OK.

Creating a photo album

1 Click the Folder tab in the main window and browse to locate your pictures.

2 Select the pictures you want to include in your album.

PIctureGear Album Maker window



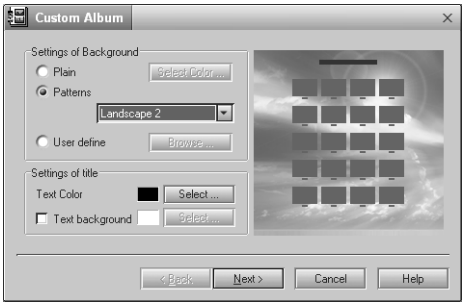
3 From the Utilities menu, select Album Maker.

4 Choose a Design template for your album.

5 Click the “Make soon” button to create your album immediately, using the PictureGear default settings.

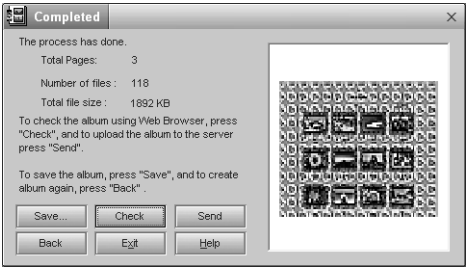
6 Click the “Customize the design” button to add pictures, frames, text, and effects.

Custom Album window



If you select the Custom Album process, the final album is created when you click the Finish button in the last dialog box.

Custom album “Completed” window


Completed
The process has done.
Total Pages: 3
Number of files : 118
Total file size : 1892 KB
To check the album using Web Browser, press "Check", and to upload the album to the server press "Send".
To save the album, press "Save", and to create album again, press "Back" .
Save...
Check
Send
Back
Exit
Help

7 Click Save to designate the location where you want to save your album.

8 Enter a name for the target folder and click OK.

9 The PictureGear™ Custom Album feature creates the new folder in the designated location.

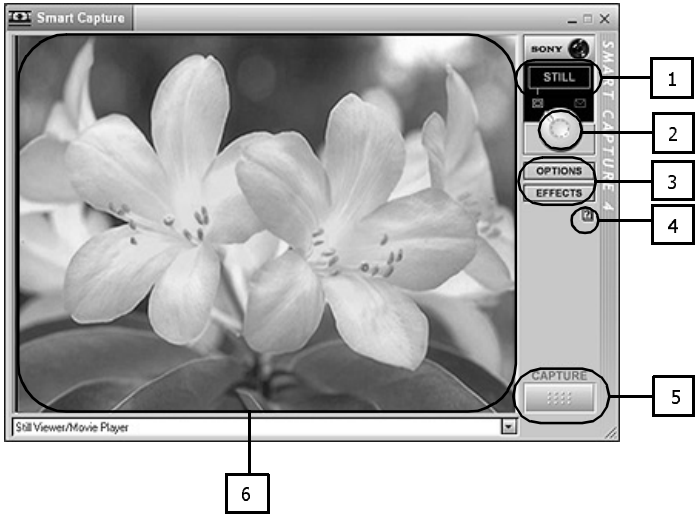
Smart Capture

Smart Capture is a Sony application that manages the i.LINK® connection between your computer and a compatible i.LINK digital camera or camcorder. You can capture and enhance video or still images to share with your family and friends over the Internet or through e-mail.

i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE1394 connection. The i.LINK connection may vary, depending on the software applications, operating system and compatible i.LINK devices. All products with an i.LINK connection may not communicate with each other.

Please refer to the documentation that came with your compatible i.LINK device for information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK PC peripherals to your system, such as an optical disc drive or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

Smart Capture main window



1	**Mode indicator** Displays the current mode (Still or Net Movie).	**4**	**Help button** Connects you directly to the online Smart Capture Help.
2	**Mode dial** Switches Smart Capture from Still mode to Net Movie mode with a single click of your mouse.	**5**	**Capture button** Captures your individual still images in the same manner as a camera. You can select different characteristics for the Capture button when capturing a Net Movie.
3	**Options button** Displays the configuration options available for either Still or Net Movie mode. **Effects button** Displays the special effects that you can apply to your pictures or video clips.	**6**	**Image window** Displays the still or video image from your digital camera or camcorder.

The Smart Capture main window opens with a blue screen image, indicating that there is no data input from a digital camera or camcorder. When you connect your digital camera or camcorder to your system with an i.LINK cable and turn it on, an image appears in the main window. Some cameras and camcorders need to have a recording media inserted before an image can be displayed in the Smart Capture window. Consult the manual supplied with your digital camera or camcorder for more information.

Using Still Mode

1 Click Start in the Windows® taskbar and click All Programs.

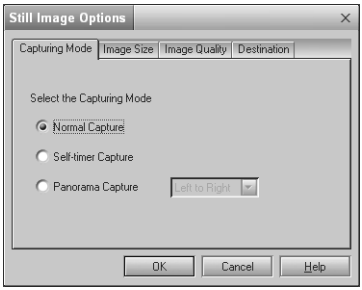
2 Select Smart Capture and then click Smart Capture. The Smart Capture main window appears.

3 Connect your compatible i.LINK digital camera or camcorder to your computer with an i.LINK cable (optional). An image appears in the Smart Capture main window.

4 Check that the Mode dial is set to Still. Click the Mode dial to switch between Still mode and Net Movie mode.

5 Click the Options button to view the available options for your still image capture. The Still Image Options window appears.

Still Image Options window



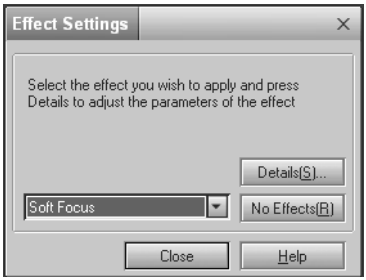
The Still Image Options window has four tabs:

- **Capturing Mode —** You can choose between Normal, Self-timer, or Panorama Capture modes.
- **Image Size —** Select the image size, horizontal by vertical, in pixels.
- **Image Quality —** Set the quality of your pictures as they are being saved by selecting Fine, Standard, or Economy image quality.
- **Destination —** Select a file destination for your pictures.

6 Click the Effects button to select a special image effect. The Effect Settings window appears. Use the drop-down list to view and customize the available effects.

You can use a different special effect for each picture, or you can remove all special effects by clicking the No Effects button.

Effect Settings window



To capture a picture in Still mode

1 Use your digital camera or camcorder to locate the image you want to capture. When you see the desired image in the Smart Capture window, click the Capture button. The Still Viewer window appears. You can capture one picture or several pictures at a time.

Still Viewer window

2 Click the arrows or drag the scroll bar to view the pictures. As each image is captured, it appears in the Still Viewer window with a text balloon to add your comments and an identifying number in the viewer queue.

To manage pictures in Still mode

From the Still Viewer window, you can perform various functions using the task buttons:

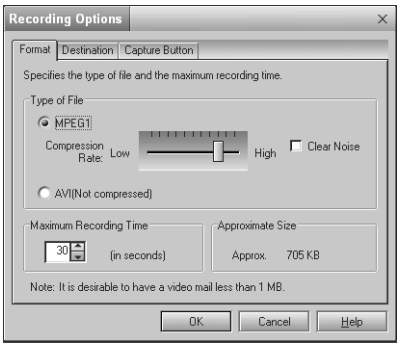
- **Delete —** Discard any or all of your still images by clicking the Delete button. Select a single image or all and the image(s) is "torn" and removed from the Still Viewer window.
- **Upload —** Send your still images online to the ImageStation Web site to share with your family and friends. The ImageStation service stores your still images online when you become a registered user. See "Using ImageStation with Smart Capture software."
- **Mail —** E-mail your still images to your family and friends. Click the Mail button and your e-mail application launches with a new message window containing the still image as an attachment.
- **Save —** Click the Save button to save your still image in a variety of formats, to a location of your choice.

You must be connected to the Internet before attempting to upload or e-mail your still images or videos.

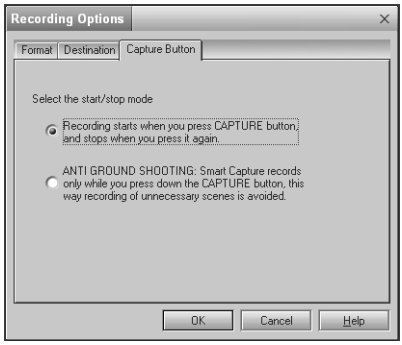
Using Net Movie Mode

1. From the Start button in the Windows taskbar, select All Programs, select Smart Capture, and then click Smart Capture. The Smart Capture main window appears.
2. Connect your compatible i.LINK digital camcorder to your computer with an i.LINK cable (optional). An image appears in the Smart Capture main window.
3. Verify that the Mode dial is set to Net Movie. Click the Mode dial to switch between Still mode and Net Movie mode.
4. Click the Options button to view the available options for your movie capture. The Recording Options window appears.

Recording Options window



Format tab view


Recording Options
Format
Destination
Capture Button
Select the start/stop mode
Recording starts when you press CAPTURE button, and stops when you press it again.
ANTI GROUND SHOOTING: Smart Capture records only while you press down the CAPTURE button, this way recording of unnecessary scenes is avoided.
OK
Cancel
Help

Capture Button tab view

The Recording Options window has three tabs:

- **Format —** You can adjust the compression rate for your movies in MPEG1 format or choose the AVI option for no compression. You can also set the maximum recording time for your movie capture.

- **Destination —** Select a file destination for your movies when recording video clips.
- **Capture Button —** Set the characteristics of the software's on-screen Capture button. You can start and stop recording by clicking the Capture button (this is the default characteristic). You can select Anti-Ground Shooting, which allows recording to occur only while you click and hold the Capture button. Recording will stop when you release the button.

5 Click the Effects button to select a special image effect. The Effect Settings window appears. Use the drop-down list to view and customize the available effects.

You can remove all special effects by clicking the No Effects button.

To capture a movie in Net Movie mode

1 Use your digital camcorder to locate the view(s) you want to capture. When you see the desired view in either the Smart Capture window or your camcorder's viewfinder, click the Capture button to begin recording your movie. The Movie Player window appears.

2 Click the Capture button when you have finished recording your movie and the first frame of your movie appears in the Movie Player window. You can record a movie for approximately 30 seconds. The Movie Player feature automatically stops recording when this time limit is reached.

Movie Player window

3 You can review your movie from the Movie Player window by using the play, pause, and stop buttons. Click the arrows or drag the scroll bar to view your movie. Each frame is displayed with an identifying number in the queue.

If you have set the Capture button to use the Anti-Ground setting, you must click and hold the Capture button to record your movie.

To manage your movie in Net Movie mode

From the Movie Player window, you can perform various functions using the task buttons:

- **Delete —** Discard any frame or the entire movie by clicking the Delete button. The frame or movie is removed from the Movie Player window.
- **Upload —** Send your movies online to the ImageStation Web site to share with your family and friends. The ImageStation service stores your movies online when you become a registered user. See "Using ImageStation with Smart Capture software."
- **Mail —** E-mail your movies to family and friends. Click the Mail button and your e-mail application launches with a new message window containing the movie as an attachment.
- **Save —** Click the Save button to compress and save your movie in a variety of formats, to a location of your choice.

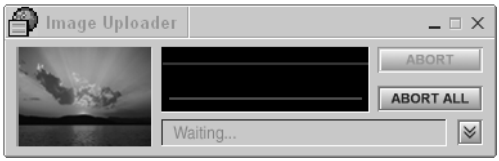
Using ImageStation with Smart Capture software

ImageStation℠ is an online service that allows you to store your pictures and movies on the Internet to share with family and friends. The ImageStation service requires an Internet connection and registration for the Web-based service. You must be connected to the Internet before uploading your pictures or movies with Smart Capture and ImageStation applications.

To upload with Movie Player

1 Click the Upload Button in Movie Player to begin transfer of your movie to the ImageStation Web site. The Image Uploader window appears and displays the Internet connection and upload status.

Image Uploader window



2 Click to see thumbnail previews of your pictures or movies.

The ImageStation preview feature is available when you upload two or more pictures or a movie. No preview is shown if a single picture is being uploaded.

To upload with Still Viewer

1 Click the Upload button in Still Viewer. The ImageStation Login window appears.

ImageStation Login window

2 For first-time users, the ImageStation registration wizard guides you through the initial registration process. Follow the on-screen instructions. If you are already a registered member, provide your login name and password. The Image Uploader window appears.

3 From the Still Viewer window, click the Upload button to transfer your pictures or movies to the ImageStation Web site. The Image Uploader window displays your Internet connection and upload status. Click to see thumbnail previews of your pictures or movies.

The ImageStation preview feature is available when you upload two or more pictures or a movie. No preview is shown if a single picture is being uploaded.

4 Go to http://www.imagestation.com to view your uploaded pictures or movies. Follow the on-screen instructions to access your ImageStation account. The ImageStation Web site may ask you to complete a full login again, if your current session is not active.

Sony recommends that your movie file size not exceed 254 MB if compressed, or 2 GB if not compressed. Large movie files take longer to upload to the ImageStation Web site.

SonicStage Software

SonicStage software is a new jukebox application that adds a host of new features to its predecessor, OpenMG™ Jukebox. SonicStage software lets you play and record from audio CDs and import digital audio files while maintaining copyright information. Continuing to take advantage of Sony's copyright-protected ATRAC3™ format for high-quality digital audio storage, SonicStage sports a new music visualizer, a sleek new player skin design, audio CD burning capability, and a parametric equalizer for fine-tuning audio playback.

Electronic Music Distribution (EMD) Services

EMD enables you to download music files via the Internet. To use Internet services that are compatible with SonicStage, you need:

- Access to the Internet from your computer. Sign up with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and configure your computer for Internet access before using EMD services.
- An EMD service provider. Consult the provider for service information.

To protect your personal data, Sony uses Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), an encryption protocol for communication between your browser and Sony's World Wide Web (WWW) server. If you are accessing the Internet from an enterprise Local Area Network (LAN), you may not be able to use SSL due to the proxy server of the LAN. Contact your network administrator for more information.

Starting SonicStage

1. Click Start in the Windows taskbar and then click All Programs.
2. Select SonicStage and then click SonicStage.

The CDDB® (Compact Disc Database) Music Recognition Service registration wizard enables you to register with CDDB. You need Internet access from your computer to register and use this service. For more information regarding CDDB registration, click the Help button.

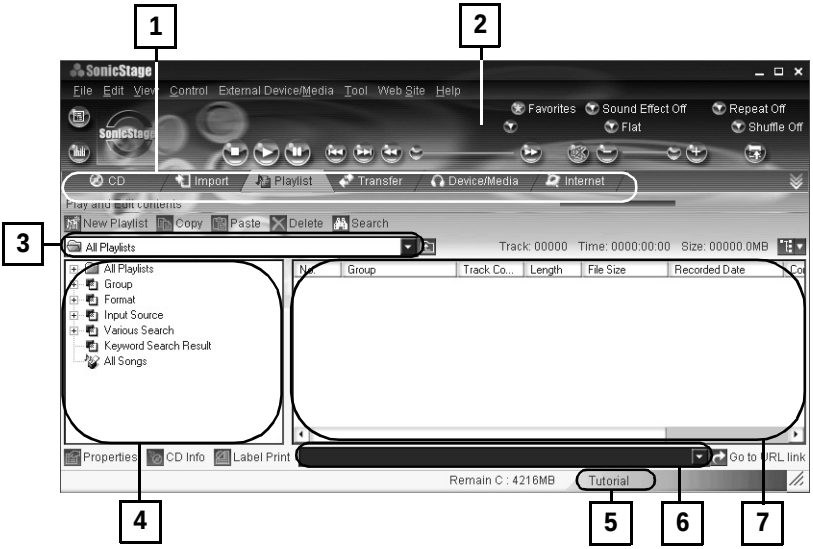
3. When you have registered with CDDB, the "Confirm the setup of SonicStage..." dialog box appears.
4. Click Yes to continue.

SonicStage feature tabs (Main window)

- **CD tab** CD — The contents of your inserted audio CD are displayed, enabling functions such as recording to the computer's hard disk drive.
- **Import tab** Import — Import MP3, WAV or audio files on your computer to a Playlist.
- **Playlist tab** Playlist — View the available Playlists as "tree + list" or "list" only.
- **Transfer tab** Transfer — View the available Playlists on your computer. You can transfer the audio files to an external device or media.
- **Device/Media tab** Device/Media — View the status of your audio files, connected external device, or inserted media.
- **Internet tab** Internet — The browser view displays your connection to the Internet, enabling you to locate audio files and use EMD services.

SonicStage main window

Playlist view



1	**Feature tabs** Changes the screen view according to the selected feature.	**5**	**Tutorial** Click to open or close the Tutorial feature.
2	**Player control buttons** Controls playback functions, such as play, pause, stop, fast forward, and reverse. You can increase or decrease volume and switch view modes.	**6**	**Internet address drop-down list** Displays current and recently visited Internet addresses. Click the "Go to URL link" button to immediately connect to your favorite Web sites.
3	**Playlist drop-down list (Playlist view)** Displays available playlists and audio files.	**7**	**File list view (Playlist view)** Displays the contents of the folder selected in the file tree view.
4	**File tree view (Playlist view)** Displays the folders available on your computer, enabling you to locate your audio files. Expand the views for the file list or Playlist drop-down using the Playlist switch button.		

Recording from a CD

You can record songs from audio CDs and import them to playlists in SonicStage.

When you record from an audio CD from your optical disc drive for the first time, the "CD Drive Optimization" dialog box appears. Click Start to verify your optical disc drive. After the verification is performed, recording begins.

1 Insert an audio CD into your system's optical disc drive.

2 Click the CD tab.

3 Use the drop-down lists to select the ATRAC3 bit rate, CD drive, and Record To destination.

CD tab window

4 You can identify specific tracks on your CD by clearing the check marks from the tracks you don't want to record. You can clear all selected tracks by selecting the empty checkbox next to Select All, and then selecting the tracks you want to record.

If your Internet connection is active, you can use the CD Info button to view the name of your CD and its song titles.

The CD Info button feature is not supported for all audio CDs.

5 Click (Rec to Jukebox) to begin recording. When the recording is finished, the new playlist appears in the File tree view of the Playlist window.

Transferring songs (Check-In/Check-Out)

You can transfer songs between the playlists in the SonicStage software and external devices or media. For more information on using your external devices or media, see the instructions supplied with the device or media.

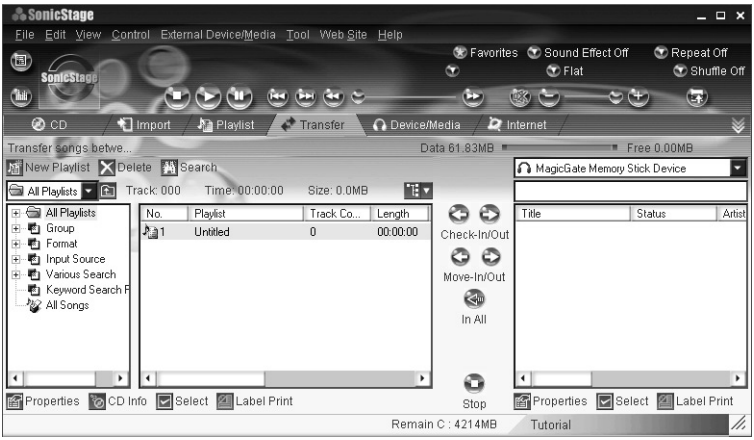
These instructions are for using the Check-In/Check-Out "1-step" method. For information on using another method, see "Changing the check-in/check-out settings" in the SonicStage online Help file.

Check-Out

1 Connect the external device or insert the media into your computer.

2 Click the Transfer tab to display the Transfer window. Your computer automatically recognizes the connected external device or media and lists the content information in a new panel on the right side of the Transfer window.

Transfer window



3 Select the Playlist that contains the song that you want to check out. The songs in the playlist are shown in the Playlist view panel located in the center of the Transfer window.

4 From the Playlist view panel, select the song to be checked out. To check out more than one song at a time, hold down the Ctrl key and select the additional songs.

5 Click (Out), or drag the song to the desired position in the song list of the external device or media. Check Out begins.

To cancel Check Out, click (Stop), or click Cancel in the Processing dialog box that is displayed during the Check Out process.

Check In

The songs that you transfer to external devices or media can only be checked in to the hard drive of the same computer from which the songs were checked out.

1. Connect the external device or insert the media into your computer.
2. Click the Transfer tab to display the Transfer window. Your computer automatically recognizes the connected external device or media and lists the content information in a new panel on the right side of the Transfer window.
3. Select the song to be checked in from the song list of the external device or media. To check in more than one song at a time, hold down the Ctrl key and click the additional songs.
4. Click (In), or drag the song(s) to the Playlist view panel. If you want to check in all of the songs in the external device or media, click (In All). Check In begins.

To cancel Check In, click (Stop), or click Cancel in the Processing dialog box that is displayed during the Check Out process.

For more information about using SonicStage software, go to the online SonicStage Help. You can access the online help file as follows:

1. Click the Start button in the Windows taskbar, select All Programs.
2. Select SonicStage, then select SonicStage Help.

Additional features

- **SonicStage Tutorial —** SonicStage features are described in the Tutorial. The user-friendly interface instructs you on how to use all SonicStage features.
- **SonicStage Backup Tool —** You can back up and restore music, graphics, and information data managed by SonicStage. You must be connected to the Internet to use the SonicStage Backup Tool.
- **Import audio files in various formats —** You can import audio files in various formats, such as MP3 or WAV standards. You can also import audio files that comply with the Microsoft® Windows Media™ Technologies (WMT) standard, identified by .asf or .wma extensions. Manage your audio files through the Playlist feature of SonicStage.
- **Manage imported songs on the Playlist —** Additional features are available when you register your imported songs through the Playlist feature of SonicStage. You can manage your music by creating your own list of songs categorized by genre or artist, displaying your song list in the Playlist feature, and arranging your songs in a customized order using the Playlist folders. Edit your music by combining multiple songs into a single song, or divide one song into two, by using the Combine and Divide features.
- **Simple mode —** The main SonicStage window viewed in Simple mode, is a smaller, compact version of Full mode. This may be convenient when you want to listen to music with SonicStage software, while using other applications, or whenever you feel the Full mode view is intrusive. The design of the main SonicStage window in simple mode can be changed by selecting a new “Skin,” which enhances the window’s appearance. The Simple mode feature enables you to perform playback operations only.

VisualFlow Software

VisualFlow™ software is a Sony state-of-the-art multimedia browser designed specifically for Memory Stick® media. It displays any still picture, movie or sound files stored in a Memory Stick media in a visually pleasing, artistic manner. VisualFlow software plays a selected movie or sound file and enables playback of files by other applications like PictureGear™, PictureToy™, and Memory Stick Slideshow.

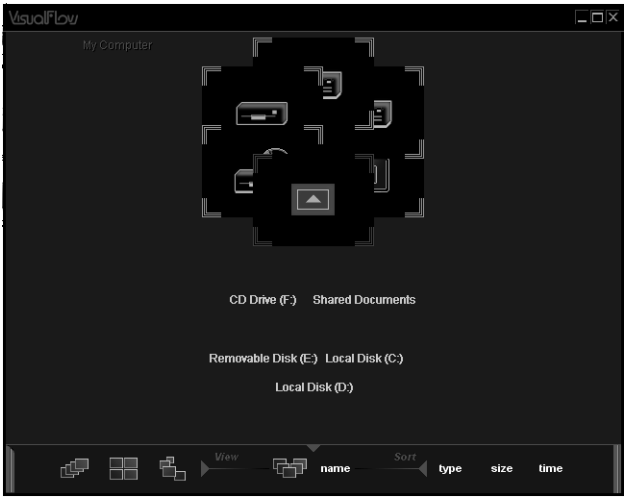
Using VisualFlow software

You can navigate in the VisualFlow application by using your mouse, the directional arrows on your keyboard, or the Sony Jog Dial™ control (on those models that offer the Sony Jog Dial™ control).

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then select All Programs.

2 Select VisualFlow, then click VisualFlow.

VisualFlow main window



3 Click an icon in the View section on the main toolbar to select a display layout.

4 Click an icon in the Sort section on the main toolbar to select a sorting method.

5 Placing your cursor on the left end of the main toolbar activates the current Memory Stick properties.

6 Placing your cursor on the right end of the main toolbar activates a secondary toolbar with more functions.

7 Click an image to show a normal view centered on the screen.

Double-clicking an image shows an enlarged view.

8 The movie file starts playback when the view is enlarged. Click on the movie files again to restore the view to normal.

While an image is enlarged, the Launch toolbar appears at the bottom of the window. Any associated application can be activated from this point.

Additional Software Information

VAIO Edit Components

VAIO® Edit Components is a software plug-in for Adobe® Premiere® that provides maximum compatibility and video quality for capturing video from your Sony digital camcorder. If your VAIO computer does not have Adobe Premiere software preinstalled and you subsequently purchase this software, install the VAIO Edit Component plug-in to ensure compatibility with Sony digital camcorders.

Installing VAIO Edit Components

1. Insert the Driver Recovery CD into your optical drive.
2. Click Start from the Windows® taskbar, select My Computer, and click your optical drive.
3. Select Support, and click VEC.
4. Double-click Setup. The VAIO Edit Components installation wizard starts.
5. Follow the on-screen instructions in the installation wizard.
6. Restart your computer when prompted.

Configuring Your VAIO Computer

This section provides information about maintaining your computer's hard disk drive performance and connecting a compatible i.LINK® device.

Hard Disk Drive Partition

To maintain optimum system performance, you should defragment your computer's D partition regularly.

To improve the performance of Sony audio and video software applications, the hard disk drive on your computer has been formatted with two partitions, C and D. Some Sony software applications save files to the D partition. This prevents large video captures from consuming the available space on your C partition.

Defragmenting your hard disk drive

If you encounter frame dropping while recording digital video onto your hard disk drive, defragmentation may be necessary.

1 Deactivate your screen saver and close other open applications, if applicable.

2 Click Start in the Windows taskbar and select All Programs.

3 Point to Accessories, point to System Tools, and then select Disk Defragmenter.

The Disk Defragment dialog box appears.

4 Select Action from the menu bar and click Analyze.

It may take more than a couple of hours to complete defragmentation, depending on the data capacity and current utilization of your computer's hard disk drive(s).

i.LINK (IEEE1394) Compatibility

Your VAIO computer may include either 4-pin or 6-pin, or both types, of i.LINK ports.

i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE1394 connection. The i.LINK connection may vary, depending on the software applications, operating system and compatible i.LINK devices. All products with an i.LINK connection may not communicate with each other.

Please refer to the documentation that came with your compatible i.LINK device for information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK PC peripherals to your system, such as an optical or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

A 6-pin i.LINK port can:

- supply power from the computer to the connected device if the device is equipped with a 6-pin connector.
- supply 10V to 12V.

A 4-pin i.LINK port cannot supply power to a connected device.

The total power supplied by the 6-pin i.LINK port cannot exceed 6 watts.

The following Sony i.LINK 400 Mbps cables are available and recommended for use with your computer: VMC-IL4415, VMC-IL4435, VMC-IL4615, VMC-IL4635, VMC-IL6615, and VMC-IL6635.

Sony computer supplies, accessories, and peripherals can be purchased from your local retailer, from the Sony VAIO Direct Web site at http://vaio.sonystyle.com, or by calling 1-888-315-7669 (toll free).

Connecting an i.LINK (IEEE1394) device

1 Use the symbol to locate the i.LINK port on your compatible i.LINK device and on your computer. Plug the i.LINK cable connector into this port.

2 Plug the other end of the cable into the corresponding 4- or 6-pin i.LINK port on your computer.

See the instructions that came with your i.LINK device for more information on installation and use.

System, Application, And Driver Recovery CD(s)

System Recovery CD(s)
Sony Electronics Inc.
The System Recovery CD utility enables you to restore the operating system and software that shipped with your computer if they become corrupted or are erased. It can be used only to restore the hard disk of the Sony computer you purchased.

Application Recovery CD(s)
Sony Electronics Inc.
The Application Recovery CD program enables you to reinstall individual applications. Use it to restore corrupted or erased files.

Driver Recovery CD
Sony Electronics Inc.
The Driver Recovery CD program enables you to reinstall individual device drivers. Use it to restore corrupted or erased files.

To Use the System Recovery CD(s)

The System Recovery utility formats your hard disk drive and restores all the original software applications. Your computer is returned to the original factory settings.

The System Recovery process removes all software that you may have installed since you started using your computer. Reinstall any applications that were not included with the computer when you purchased it.

If you experience a problem with your computer, reinstalling an individual application or device driver may correct the problem. You may not need to recover the entire contents of your hard drive.

Use the Application Recovery CD(s) to reinstall individual applications.

When you successfully complete your system recovery, you are prompted to complete the Windows registration process.

System Recovery Options

System Drive Recovery

All data on Drive C is deleted. The factory default settings and software applications are restored on this drive only.

Change Partition Size

All partitions, custom installations, and changes are removed from the hard disk drive. You can set the partition sizes for both the Drive C and Drive D. The original, preinstalled operating system and software applications are restored.

Recovery to Original Factory Defaults

All data and partitions are removed from the hard disk drive. All original factory settings, operating system, and preinstalled software is restored.

The System Recovery utility does not back up your system's data. If you wish to retain your system data, perform a back up to an external media.

Using the System Recovery CD(s)

Your system may take a few minutes to load necessary files. A blue screen appears during the downloading process.

1 Insert the System Recovery CD in your computer's optical drive.

The System Recovery utility starts from the optical drive. The first CD must be in the drive when you turn on your computer.

If your system is equipped with two optical drives, insert the System Recovery CD into the upper optical drive.

2 Turn off your computer.

3 Wait 30 seconds and turn on your computer. Your screen displays the downloading progress, "Starting VAIO Recovery Utility."

4 The VAIO System Recovery Utility dialog box appears. Click Next.

5 At the pop-up prompt, select Yes to begin the system recovery process.

Follow the on-screen instructions.

Your system may include one or more System Recovery CDs. If you have more than one System Recovery CD, insert the first CD to run the System Recovery program. You are prompted to insert the next CD(s) once the information from the first CD has been installed.

The recovery process takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes to complete.

After recovering your system using the System Recovery CD(s), you may be prompted to insert your Application Recovery CD(s) after restarting Windows. Use the Application Recovery CD(s) to complete full restoration of your system.

To Use the Application Recovery CD(s)

The Application Recovery CD utility enables you to reinstall individual software applications if they become corrupted or are erased. Reinstalling an individual software application may correct a problem that you are experiencing with your computer or specific application. You may not need to reinstall the entire contents of your hard drive.

If you need to reinstall all of the software that shipped with your computer, use the System Recovery CD(s).

You must be in Windows to run the Application Recovery CD utility. If you have any questions about using the Application Recovery CD(s), visit http://www.sony.com/pcsupport, or contact Sony Customer Support at 1-888-4-SONY-PC.

Using the Application Recovery CD(s)

1 Turn on your computer. If your computer is already on, save and close all open applications.

2 When the Windows desktop appears, insert the Application Recovery CD into your computer's optical drive. The Application Recovery utility loads automatically.

If your system is equipped with two optical drives, insert the Application Recovery CD into the upper optical drive.

3 When the Application Recovery menu appears, follow the on-screen instructions to complete the recovery process.

Your system may include one or more Application Recovery CDs. If you have more than one Application Recovery CD, insert the first CD to run the Application Recovery utility. You may be prompted to insert the next CD(s), depending on the software application you wish to restore.

To Use the Driver Recovery CD

The Driver Recovery CD utility enables you to reinstall individual drivers and repair software applications if they become corrupted or are erased. You can reinstall an individual driver to correct a problem that you are experiencing with your computer, peripheral hardware, or software application.

If you need to reinstall all of the software applications that shipped with your computer, use the System Recovery CD(s).

You must be in Windows to run the Driver Recovery CD utility.

Reinstalling device drivers with the Driver Recovery CD

1. Turn on your computer. If your computer is already on, close all applications.
2. When the Windows desktop appears, insert the Driver Recovery CD into the optical disc drive.

If your system is equipped with two optical drives, insert the Driver Recovery CD into the upper optical drive.

3. Click Start in the Windows taskbar and click Control Panel. The Control Panel window appears.
4. Click Performance and Maintenance and click System. The System Properties dialog box appears.
5. From the Hardware tab, click Device Manager.
6. Click to select the unknown device or the device that requires the driver installation. The unknown device(s) is identified by a yellow question mark.
7. From the Action menu, click Uninstall. This removes the device driver from your system. Click OK. Repeat for each device driver as necessary.
8. Restart your computer. Click Start in the Windows taskbar, select Turn Off Computer, and then click Restart.
9. When the desktop appears, Windows automatically reinstalls the device driver(s) from the Driver Recovery CD.

Troubleshooting

This section describes how to solve common problems you may encounter when using your computer. Many problems have simple solutions, so try these suggestions before you call Sony Customer Support.

Topics

My computer does not start.

- ❑ Check that the computer is plugged into a power source and that it is turned on. Check that the power light is lit on the front panel of the computer.
- ❑ Confirm that a disk is not in the floppy disk drive (unless you are using a bootable floppy disk).
- ❑ Confirm that the power cord and all cables are connected firmly.
- ❑ If you plugged the computer into a power strip or Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), make sure the power strip or UPS is turned on and working.
- ❑ Check that the monitor is plugged into a power source and turned on. Check that the brightness and contrast controls are adjusted correctly. See the manual that came with your display for details.
- ❑ Check that the computer is not in stand by mode.

My files are corrupted or deleted. I want to recover applications that came with my computer.

See "To Use the Application Recovery CD(s)" in the online User Guide, for more information. You can access the online User Guide as follows:

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then click VAIO Help and Support.

2 From the VAIO Help and Support menu, click VAIO User Guide.

My drivers are corrupted or deleted. I want to recover drivers that came with my computer.

See "To Use the Driver Recovery CD" in the online User Guide, for more information. You can access the online User Guide as follows:

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then click VAIO Help and Support.

2 From the VAIO Help and Support menu, click VAIO User Guide.

My computer or software application stopped responding.

You can try to locate and close the software application that has stopped responding.

1 Press the Ctrl+Alt+Delete keys. The Windows Task Manager window appears.

2 From the Applications tab, locate the application that has the status message, "Not responding."

3 Select the application that has a Not Responding status and click End Task. Windows attempts to close the application.

If your computer does not respond or the application does not close, try the following steps:

1 Save any open files, if possible.

2 Press the Alt+F4 keys. The Turn Off Computer window appears.

3 Click the Restart button.

If your computer still does not respond and you cannot restart, shut down your computer by pressing and holding the power switch for more than six seconds.

If the software application continues to stop responding or causes your computer to stop responding, contact the software publisher or designated technical support provider.

Pressing and holding the power switch for more than six seconds, may result in the loss of data from files that are currently open.

Why does the Windows® operating system stop responding during shutdown?

The Windows operating system may not shut down properly for many reasons, including incompatible or conflicting drivers, damaged files, or non-responsive hardware. For troubleshooting information, you can search Windows Help.

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar and select VAIO Help and Support. The VAIO Help and Support dialog box appears.

2 Select Fixing a Problem and then select Startup and Shut Down problems. A list of specific problem topics appears on the right side of the dialog box.

3 Select Startup and Shutdown Troubleshooter. Follow the on-screen instructions according to your specific situation.

How do I change the parallel port type to ECP, EPP, or bi-directional?

You can change the parallel port type using the System Setup utility (CMOS Setup Utility). To access System Setup:

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar and select Turn Off Computer. Select Restart.

2 When the Sony screen displays, press the F2 key on your keyboard.

3 Select the Advanced tab from the Setup Utility screen.

4 Select “I/O Device Configuration” and press Enter.

5 Use the arrow keys to highlight Parallel Port Mode and press Enter.

You can toggle between the Normal (bi-directional), EPP, ECP, and ECP+EPP options using the directional arrow keys.

6 Select the desired setting displays, and press Enter.

7 Press the F10 key to Save and Exit.

My optical drive tray does not open.

There are two methods for opening your optical drive tray:

- Use the Eject button
  1. Make sure the computer is turned on.
  2. Press the Eject button on the drive.
- Use the My Computer icon
  1. Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then select My Computer.
  2. Right-click the appropriate optical drive icon.
  3. Select Eject from the shortcut menu.

Avoid using adhesive labels to identify your CD media. Adhesive labels may come off while the CD media is in use in your optical drive(s) and may cause damage to the unit.

I cannot play a DVD or CD.

- After inserting your optical disc, wait a few seconds for it to be detected before trying to access it.
- Verify that the disc is in the tray with the label side facing up.
- Install your CD or DVD software according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If your drive reads some DVDs or CDs, but not others, check the shiny side of the disc for dirt or scratches. You may also need to clean the disc drive lens with an appropriate cleaner.

To recover the CD or DVD software applications that are preinstalled on your computer, see "To Use the Application Recovery CD(s)" for more information.

I cannot play a DVD.

If a region code warning appears when you are using the DVD player application, it may be that the region code of the DVD you are trying to play is incompatible with the region code setting of your optical drive. A region code is listed on the disc packaging. Region code indicators such as "1" or "ALL" are labeled on some DVDs to indicate the type of player that can play the disc. Unless a "1" or "ALL" appears on the DVD or on its packaging, you cannot play the disc on this system.

If you hear audio but cannot see video, your computer's video resolution may be set too high. To improve video resolution, verify that your screen area is set to 1024 x 768, using 32-bit color (preset factory default). To check your video resolution, see the Troubleshooting topic, "How do I change the video resolution of my display?"

If your video card utilizes system memory, you may improve video resolution by changing your screen area to 800 x 600, using 16-bit color. See your Specifications sheet for details about your computer's video RAM.

If you see video but cannot hear audio, check all of the following:

- ❑ Verify that your DVD player's mute feature is turned off.
- ❑ Check the master volume setting in the Audio Mixer.
- ❑ Check the volume settings on your computer speakers.
- ❑ Check the connections between your speakers and the computer.
- ❑ Verify that drivers are installed properly, by following these steps:

  1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then select Control Panel.

  2 Click Performance and Maintenance and then click Systems. The System Properties dialog box appears.

  3 Select the Hardware tab and then select the Device Manager button to view installed drivers.

A dirty or damaged disc may also cause the computer to stop responding while it tries to read the disc. If necessary, remove the disc and check that it is not dirty or damaged.

To recover the CD or DVD software applications that are preinstalled on your computer, see "To Use the Application Recovery CD(s)" for more information.

When I click an application icon, a message such as "You must insert the application CD into your drive" appears and the software does not start.

- Some software applications require specific files that are located on the application's CD-ROM. Insert the disc and try starting the program again.
- Check to make sure you inserted the CD-ROM with the label side facing up.

Why doesn't my optical drive (DVD-RW or CD-RW) record at the highest speed?

If you are having difficulty formatting DVD-RW or CD-RW media for recording purposes, try changing the write speed to a lower setting.

See the online Help or documentation that came with your CD or DVD recording software application for details on adjusting write speed settings.

Why is my computer operating improperly after downloading the CD-burning component of RealJukebox® software?

If you choose to download and use the optional RealJukebox software's CD-burning component to create CDs, the software feature may interfere with your computer's normal system operations.

For VAIO® computers that are equipped with all of the necessary components for creating a CD-R or CD-RW, Sony recommends using the SonicStage software application to create CDs. SonicStage software is preinstalled on your computer.

How do I change the video resolution of my display?

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar and then select Control Panel.

2 Select Appearances and Themes, then select "Change the screen resolution."

3 Click the Settings tab.

4 Change the Screen resolution and Color quality to the desired levels.

5 Click Apply and then click OK.

Why is there no sound in any application?

- ❑ Check that the speakers are plugged into the Headphones jack.
- ❑ If your speakers have a mute button, verify that it is turned off.
- ❑ If your speakers are powered by batteries, verify that the batteries are inserted properly and that they are charged.
- ❑ If your speakers use an external power source, verify that the power cord is plugged into a grounded wall outlet or power strip.
- ❑ If your speakers have volume control, check the volume level.
- ❑ You cannot hear sound from your speakers if headphones are connected to your computer.
- ❑ If the software application you are using has its own volume control, check that the volume is turned up.
- ❑ Check the volume controls in the Windows® operating system using these steps:

  1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then select Control Panel.

  2 Select Sounds, Speech, and Audio Devices, then click "Adjust the system volume."

  3 From the Volume tab, adjust the Device volume by moving the slider bar to the desired sound level. Verify that the Mute option is not selected.

- ❑ Check that the Mute check box is not selected in the Windows volume control.

You may need to reinstall the sound drivers. See "To Use the Driver Recovery CD" for more information.

My modem connection is slow.

Many factors influence modem connection speed:

- ❑ Telephone line noise
- ❑ Incompatibility with other telephone equipment such as fax machines or other modems.
- ❑ Internet Service Providers (ISP) connection capability may vary.

If you think your modem is not connecting properly to other PC-based modems, fax machines, or your ISP, check the following:

- ❑ Contact your phone company and ask them to verify that your phone line is free from line noise.
- ❑ If your problem is fax-related, check that there are no problems with the fax machine you are calling and that it is compatible with fax modems.
- ❑ For optimum performance, verify that your ISP point of presence (POP) phone number is compliant with V.90 standards.
- ❑ If you are having a problem connecting with your ISP, check that they are not experiencing technical problems.
- ❑ Try connecting your modem through another phone line, if available.

My modem does not work.

Your modem may be experiencing equipment or software conflicts. If your modem is not functioning properly, check the following:

- ❑ Check that the phone line is plugged into the Line jack.
- ❑ Check that the phone line is working properly. You can verify the line by plugging in an external device such as a standard telephone or fax machine and listening for a dial tone.
- ❑ Check that the access phone number (POP) is correct.
- ❑ All software applications that are preinstalled by Sony are compatible with your computer's modem. If you have installed other software, contact the software publisher for information on how to configure the software in order to recognize the modem.

- If it appears that your modem is not functioning properly, check the device status.

  1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then click Control Panel.

  2 Click Printers and Other Hardware and then select Phone and Modem Options.

  3 From the Modems tab, click to select your modem.

  4 Click Properties. The Modem Properties window appears.

  5 Review the information in the Device status section. If your modem is not working properly, click the Troubleshoot button. The VAIO Help and Support Center window appears.

  6 Follow the on-screen instructions to resolve the problem.

You may need to reinstall the modem drivers. See "To Use the Driver Recovery CD" for more information.

How do I change my modem to rotary or Touch-Tone dialing?

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then click Control Panel.

2 Click Printers and Other Hardware, then click Phone and Modem options.

3 From the Dialing Rules tab, click Edit. The Edit Location dialog box appears.

4 Select the Tone or Pulse option. Click OK.

My microphone does not work.

Check that the microphone is plugged into the Microphone jack.

My microphone is too sensitive to background noise.

If you find there is too much background noise when you record sound, you should adjust the microphone gain by following these steps:

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then click Control Panel.

2 Click Sounds, Speech, and Audio Devices, then click Sounds and Audio Devices.

3 From the Audio tab, locate the Sound recording section and click the Volume button. The Recording Control dialog box appears.

4 Select the Options menu and click Properties. The Properties dialog box appears.

5 In the section, "Adjust volume for," select the Recording option. Click OK.

6 From the Recording Control dialog box, decrease the microphone volume level by moving the slider bar down.

7 Close the Recording Control dialog box and then close the Sounds and Audio Devices Properties window.

My mouse does not work.

- ❑ Check that the mouse is plugged securely into the Mouse port.
- ❑ Save and close all open applications. Turn off your computer, wait approximately 10 seconds, and then restart your computer.
- ❑ There may be dust or dirt inside the mouse mechanism. To clean the mouse, follow these steps:

  1 Save and close all applications, and turn off your computer.

  2 Turn the mouse upside down.

  3 Remove the mouse ball cover on the back of the mouse by turning clockwise the ring that covers the mouse ball.

  4 Turn the mouse upright, and drop the mouse ball into your hand.

  5 Using a piece of tape, remove any dust or dirt on the mouse ball and inside the mouse ball socket.

  6 Return the mouse ball to the socket, and replace the mouse ball cover. Secure the cover by turning the ring counter-clockwise.

✍ You may need to reinstall the mouse drivers. See "To Use the Driver Recovery CD" for more information.

My mouse needs to be set up for left-hand use.

1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then click Control Panel.

2 Click Printers and Other Hardware, then click Mouse. The Mouse Properties dialog box appears.

3 From the Buttons tab, select "Switch primary and secondary buttons" under the Button Configuration options.

4 Click Apply, then click OK.

My keyboard does not work.

- ❑ Check that the keyboard is securely plugged into the Keyboard port.
- ❑ Save and close all open applications. Turn off your computer, wait approximately 10 seconds, and then restart your computer.

I cannot find the Windows® taskbar.

The Windows taskbar may be hidden or minimized.

- ❑ Use the mouse to locate a hidden taskbar by pointing to the left, right, top, and bottom edges of the screen. The taskbar appears when the cursor is placed over its location.

  1 Right-click on the taskbar and select Properties from the shortcut menu.

  2 Clear the check box for Autohide the taskbar, then click OK.

- ❑ Use the mouse to locate a minimized taskbar by pointing to the left, right, top and bottom edges of the display screen. The taskbar has been located when the cursor changes to a double arrow cursor. Left-click and drag away from the edge of the display screen. The minimized taskbar resizes and becomes visible.

Why is my system running slowly?

- ❑ The system responsiveness varies depending with the number of applications that are open and running. Close any applications that you are not currently using.
- ❑ Increasing the system memory may also help. For information on installing memory, please see the online VAIO User Guide.

How do I install a printer?

- If your printer has a USB, IEEE1394, or infrared connection, contact the printer manufacturer for information or updates that may be required for proper installation.
- Check the printer manufacturer's Web site for the latest drivers for your operating system before proceeding with installation. Some printers do not function properly without the updated drivers for specific operating systems.
- To install your printer, follow these steps:

  1 Click Start in the Windows taskbar, then click Control Panel.

  2 Click Printers and Other Hardware, then click Add a Printer.

  3 From the Add Printer Wizard, click Next.

  4 Select Local Printer, then click Next.

Place a check mark in the box for "Automatically detect and install my Plug and Play printer", if you are installing a recently manufactured printer with Plug and Play capability.

  5 Select the appropriate port, usually LPT1, and then click Next.

  6 Select the appropriate printer manufacturer and model

  7 Follow the on-screen instructions to print a test page and complete printer installation.

If the printer is not included in the list and the printer manufacturer included a disk with a Windows XP Printer driver, choose Have Disk, enter the appropriate path for the disk or CD and click OK.

If the printer is not included on the list and no drivers are included with the printer, choose an alternate printer driver that your printer may emulate. Refer to the manual that came with your printer for specific emulation information.

My connected printer doesn't function after the computer resumes from a power saving mode.

Clear the printer memory by turning the printer off for approximately 10 seconds, and then turning it back on.

To contact Sony for technical support

For further technical assistance, call 1-888-4-SONY-PC (1-888-476-6972) or access the Sony Computing Support Web site at: http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.

Notes on Use

The information in this section provides basic procedures to follow when handling your computer, components, and accessories.

The power source

- Your computer operates on 100–120 V AC 50/60 Hz only.
- Plug all the power cords for your computer and its peripheral equipment into the same AC supply line. AC derived from different supply lines may result in voltage differences that can cause unstable operation or unwanted weak currents at the time of connection.
- Do not share the AC outlet with any other power-consuming equipment, such as copying machines or shredders.
- You can purchase a power strip with a surge protector. This device prevents damage to your computer caused by sudden power surges such as those that may occur during an electrical storm.
- If you live in an area that experiences frequent power fluctuations, you may want to purchase an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). This device contains both a surge protector and a battery backup. The surge protector prevents damage to your computer caused by power surges. The battery backup safeguards your data during a brief period of power loss.
- The power control button on the front panel does not turn off the system AC power. To remove power from the system, you must turn off the computer and then unplug the AC power cord from the wall outlet or power strip.
- Do not place heavy objects on the power cord.
- Do not operate the system with the cover removed. Always reinstall the cover before turning on the system.
- To disconnect the cord, pull it out by the plug. Never pull the cord itself.
- Unplug your computer from the wall outlet if you will not be using the computer for a long time.
- Before touching anything inside the computer, turn the system off and let it cool for ten minutes. This will ensure that the processor heat sink will not be hot.
- Do not attempt to open the power supply. There are no user-serviceable parts in the power supply. To avoid personal injury or damage to your equipment, refer the repair or replacement of the power supply to qualified personnel only.

Disposal of the lithium battery

Dispose of the lithium battery properly. In some areas, the disposal of lithium batteries in household or business trash may be prohibited. You can return your unwanted lithium batteries to your nearest Sony Service Center or Factory Service Center. For the Sony Service Center nearest you, call 1-888-4-SONY-PC (1-888-476-6972).

⚠ **Do not handle damaged or leaking lithium batteries. The lithium battery may explode if mistreated. Do not disassemble it or dispose of it in fire.**

Replace the battery with a Sony CR2032 lithium battery. Using a type of battery other than a CR2032 may present a risk of fire or explosion.

Handling the computer system

- Do not place your Sony computer in a location subject to:
  - Heat sources, such as radiators or air ducts
  - Direct sunlight
  - Excessive dust
  - Mechanical vibration or shock
  - Strong magnets or speakers that are not magnetically shielded
  - Ambient temperature of more than 95ºF (35ºC) or less than 50ºF (10ºC)
  - High humidity, moisture, or rain
- Do not place electronic equipment near your computer. The computer's electromagnetic field may cause a malfunction.
- Provide adequate air circulation to prevent internal heat build-up. Do not place your computer on loose surfaces (such as rugs or blankets) or near materials (such as curtains or draperies) that may block its ventilation slots. Leave a space of at least 8 inches from the back panel of your computer.
- Clean the cabinet with a soft, dry cloth or a soft cloth lightly moistened with a mild detergent solution. Do not use any type of abrasive pad, scouring powder, or solvent such as alcohol or benzine, as it may damage the finish of your Sony computer.

- Should any solid object or liquid fall into the cabinet, keyboard, or mouse, shut down your computer and then unplug it. You may want to have the computer checked by qualified personnel before operating it any further.
- The computer uses high-frequency radio signals and may cause interference to radio or TV reception. Should this occur, relocate the computer a suitable distance away from the set.
- Use only specified peripheral equipment and interface cables; otherwise, problems may result.
- Do not use cut or damaged connection cables.
- Always switch the power off before connecting your computer to peripheral equipment; otherwise, damage may occur to the integrated circuits in your computer.
- Your computer, keyboard, and mouse consist of high-precision electronic parts. Do not drop them or bump them against other objects.
- Your Sony computer will not work with party lines, cannot be connected to a coin-operated telephone, and may not work with multiple phone lines or a private branch exchange (PBX).
- If the telephone company makes a service call to your home or office and determines that your computer is responsible for the problem, the telephone company may bill you for the service call. If you do not disconnect your computer when it is adversely affecting the telephone line, the telephone company has the right to disconnect your service until you correct the problem.

Moisture condensation

If your computer is brought directly from a cold location to a warm one, moisture may condense inside your computer. In this case, allow at least an hour before turning on your computer. If any problem occurs, unplug your computer, and contact your Sony Service Center.

Upgrading the computer system

- The upgrading procedures described in the online manual, assume familiarity with the general terminology associated with personal computers and with the safety practices and regulatory compliance required for using and modifying electronic equipment.
- Disconnect the system from its power source and from telecommunications links, networks, or modems before you open the system or follow any of the upgrading procedures described in the online manual. Failure to do so may result in personal injury or equipment damage.
- Electrostatic discharge (ESD) can damage disk drives, add-on cards, and other components. Follow the upgrading procedures described in the online manual while working at an ESD workstation. If such a station is not available, use these precautions:
  - Avoid working in a carpeted area.
  - Do not handle materials that may produce or hold static electricity, such as cellophane wrappers.
  - Ground yourself by maintaining continuous contact with an unpainted metal portion of the chassis while performing the procedure.
- When removing a slot cover, be careful not to damage components on the system board or add-on cards. You may need to temporarily remove add-on cards that are next to the slot cover you want to remove.

Handling a display

- Do not change the display refresh rate to 85 Hz, as DVD playback and the DVgate software may not function correctly. Sony recommends that you keep your display at the preset, optimal refresh rate (75 Hz).
- Do not place the display near a strong magnetic force.
- Do not block the ventilation slots on the display.
- Using the computer in low temperature conditions may produce a residual image on the screen. This is not a malfunction. When the computer returns to normal temperature, the screen returns to normal.
- A residual image may appear on the screen if the same image is displayed for a lengthy period of time. The image disappears after a period of time. You can use a screen saver to prevent residual images.
- The screen becomes warm during operation. This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

Using the hard disk drive

- Do not place the computer in a location that is subject to vibration or shock.
- Do not move the computer during operation.
- Do not subject the computer to sudden changes in temperature.
- Do not turn off the power while the computer is accessing the hard disk drive.

Handling floppy disks

- Do not open the shutter manually and touch the surface of the floppy disk.
- Keep floppy disks away from magnets.
- Keep floppy disks away from direct sunlight and other heat sources.

Handling CD or DVD media

- Do not touch the surface of the disc.
- Do not drop or bend the disc.
- Do not use adhesive labels to identify the disc. The label may come off while the disc is in use in the optical drive and damage the drive.

Cleaning CD or DVD media

- Fingerprints and dust on the surface of a disc may cause read errors. Proper care of the disc is essential to maintain its reliability. Do not use solvents such as benzine, thinner, commercially available cleaners or anti-static spray, as they may cause damage to the disc.
- For normal cleaning, hold the disc by its edge and use a soft cloth to wipe the surface from the center out.
- If the disc is badly soiled, moisten a soft cloth with water, wring it out well, and use it to wipe the surface of the disc from the center out. Wipe off any remaining moisture with a dry soft cloth.

Resources

Sony provides several support options for your Sony computer. When you have questions about your computer and the preinstalled software, check these sources for answers, in the following sequence:

VAIO QuickStart	The *QuickStart* contains information on how to set up your computer quickly and easily.
VAIO Computer User Guide	The *User Guide* contains information on how to get the most from your computer, find help, and solve common problems. **(Note: The User Guide is not available in hard copy for all models.)**
Online (Electronic) Documentation	The *User Guide* is available electronically on your hard drive. Two additional guides, *Upgrading and Maintaining Your VAIO Digital Studio Computer* and the *Troubleshooting Help* are also available online. To access online documentation: **1** Click Start and point to VAIO Help and Support Center. **2** Click on the VAIO User Guide.
Software application manuals and online help files	Most manuals for preinstalled software are located on your hard disk drive as online help files. You can access online help files from the Help menu within the specific application. A printed manual may be available for some applications.
Knowledge Database	This database provides instant access to information on commonly encountered problems. Enter a description of your problem and the Knowledge Database searches for the corresponding solutions online. You can access the Sony Knowledge Database from the Sony Computing Support Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.

Sony Fax-on-Demand	This service provides you with answers to commonly asked questions. You can use this automated service to request a list of available topics. Select the topics that you want to view. To contact the Sony fax-on-demand service, call 1-888-4-SONY-PC (1-888-476-6972). (Requires a fax machine or fax software.)
Software Updates	You can download the latest software updates and software patches for your Sony computer by selecting Software Updates on the Sony Computing Support Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.
VAIO Computer System Reference Manual	This advanced reference manual supplies detailed technical information about your computer's hardware. This document is available on the Sony Computing Support Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.

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